



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of All Sizes
SBA Disaster Assistance – Field Operations Center- East – 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 700, Atlanta, GA 30303

Release Date: October 8, 2008

Release Number: 09-010 11458/11459

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Adams and Wilkinson Counties Residents Eligible for SBA Disaster Assistance

ATLANTA – The U.S. Small Business Administration SBA announces that Adams and Wilkinson County residents and businesses affected by Hurricane Gustav on August 28 through September 8, 2008, can now apply for low-interest disaster loans from SBA.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Businesses and private non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage in the future.

For small businesses, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

The disaster declaration covers Adams, Hancock, Harrison, Washington, and Wilkinson counties for both Physical and Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private, non-profit organizations in the adjacent counties of Amite, Bolivar, Franklin, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jackson, Jefferson, Pearl River, Sharkey, Stone and Sunflower in the **State of Mississippi**; Chicot County in the **State of Arkansas**; and Concordia, East Feliciana, Saint Tammany, Tensas, and West Feliciana Parishes in the **State of Louisiana** are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

Interest rates are as low as 2.875 percent for homeowners and renters, and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

(More)

The SBA's Customer Service Representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Recovery Centers to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete their application.

The Centers are located in **Adams County** at 370 Seargent S Prentiss Drive, in Natchez; and in **Wilkinson County** at the Wilkinson County Industrial Complex, 1495 US Highway 61 South in Woodville. The hours are 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, until further notice.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Centers may obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CDT or by emailing our customer service center at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. Completed applications should be returned to the Centers or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX. 76155.

Victims may also apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **November 25, 2008**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **June 26, 2009**.

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For more information about the SBA's Disaster Loan Programs, visit our website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance.